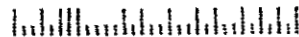


Norm & Carol Simoes
501 Avenue F
Redondo Beach, CA 90277



The Hon. Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications
Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20544



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Norm and Carol Simoes
501 Avenue F
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

August 16, 2002

The Hon. Michael K. Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., SW
Washington, D.C. 20544

Dear Mr. Powell:

We are writing regarding our concerns about the telecommunications industry's plan to further divide the 310 area code, which would mean changing area codes for many residents and small businesses. We strongly oppose this division because of costs and inconvenience to those affected.

There are quite reasonable alternatives available, such as allocating a new area code to phone lines used by ATMs, fax machines, etc., which would reserve the 310 area code for residential and business voice and computer use.

Your commission has caused this so-called "number shortage" by assigning huge blocks of numbers to phone companies, and not requiring them to return the numbers when they are unused. The fact that there are still 3.6 million unused numbers in the 310 area code, out of 8.9 million total, is clear evidence of this.

Also, your commission's siding with Verizon Wireless to allow yet another delay in implementing "number portability," as required by law, is grossly unfair to consumers. The companies' claims that it is impracticable or impossible are disingenuous; it's been done in Europe for years. The companies' resistance obviously is intended to force dissatisfied customers to keep their unsatisfactory service providers.

We hope you will reconsider your support of the industry's plans in favor of the consumers whom your commission is supposed to serve and protect.

Very truly yours,

Handwritten signatures of Carol Simoes and Norm Simoes.